

24 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: A Permanent Board of Consultants for CIA

1. Pat Coyne's note suggests that we should formalize the Doolittle Committee as a permanent board of consultants. I think this is an excellent idea, but believe it should be done by the President. The timing is important also. It should be done after the Clark Committee has submitted its report, and at a moment when the White House will not be accused of trying to throw a roadblock in front of any attempt to establish a Joint Congressional Committee. Thus, we should be prepared to do it at the most propitious time--even though this may not occur until Congress is in recess.

2. I believe the following steps are involved:

a. The President should announce that on the basis of the Doolittle and Clark reports he is convinced CIA is doing a good job. He has also so benefited from these reports that he has decided to appoint a non-partisan group of consultants to report to the President annually on the intelligence activities of the government. (Action: We should prepare a Presidential statement and press release for this.)


b. At the time of the announcement the President should either make public, or present to the Chairman of the Board of Consultants the charter of the group. (Action: We should prepare this.) In this connection it would be my strong recommendation that the charter of the consultants be so phrased as to place their emphasis on CIA, but allow them to look into other intelligence agencies especially in regard to matters of coordination and "agreed activities".

c. The President should announce the composition of the Board. In this I would use the Doolittle group as a nucleus (Doolittle, Franke and possibly Hadley, plus Johnston as Executive Secretary and Coyne as Security Advisor), plus Conolly from the Clark group, plus Robert G. Storey from the parent Hoover Commission. It might also be wise to have two Senators and two Congressmen to serve ex officio, one of each from each party--e.g., Senators Russell, McClellan or Symington (Democrats); Saltonstall or Smith [N. J.] (Republicans); Congressmen Vinson or Mahon (Democrats); Frelinghuysen or Short (Republicans). This in effect would create a Hoover Commission type of Board of Consultants for CIA.

d. The President--or his designate--should also consult with the appropriate Congressional leaders in advance of doing this to insure no adverse reaction on the Hill.

3. If you approve in principle of the above, I will prepare the necessary papers so you can consult with Governor Adams or the President.

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Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

APPROVE:

Allen W. Dulles
Director